

## IN THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-28 (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A retractable cover for covering a structure, the retractable cover comprising:

a flexible material portion including:

~~a sheath housing forming a sheath; and~~

~~a first zipper disposed on the sheath housing;~~

biasing means including a spring having a predetermined length relative to at least a predetermined length of the flexible material portion; and said biasing means positioned along an extensible length of the flexible material portion and with the biasing means retracting the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state; said biasing means affixed to said flexible portion by means selected from the group consisting of:

a) bonding adhesive;

b) welding; and

c) a sheath housing forming a sheath;

securing means for securing the flexible material portion to the structure, with the securing means selected from the group consisting of:

a) stitching for sewing the flexible material to a portion of the structure;

b) a first hook system;

c) a first hook-and-pile fastener system;

- d) a dome system;
- e) a first buttoned system;
- f) a screw;
- g) a pin;
- h) adhesive; and
- i) welding;

biasing means positioned along an extendable length of the flexible material portion and disposed within the sheath, with the biasing means accessible in the sheath, with the biasing means retracting the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state, and with the biasing means including:

a second zipper for removably attaching the biasing means to the first zipper on the sheath housing; and

a spring having a predetermined length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion; and

affixing means for affixing the flexible material portion in the extended state to the structure, wherein the affixing means is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a second hook-and-pile fastener system;
- b) a second hook system;
- c) a second button system;
- d) a material tying fastener;
- e) a clip;
- f) a magnet; and
- g) a zipper.

30. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 29, wherein the sheath housing is sewn onto the flexible material portion.

31. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 29, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a constant force spring.

32. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 29, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a variable force spring.

33. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 32, wherein a retraction force of the variable force spring can be selected from a range of about 0.25 kg to about at least 50 kg as determined by one or more of at least the weight of the flexible material portion, the dimensions of the flexible material portion, and the structure to be covered.

34. (Currently Amended) A retractable cover for covering a structure, the retractable cover comprising:

a flexible material portion including:

a sheath housing forming a sheath;

~~a first zipper disposed on the sheath housing; and~~

securing means for securing the flexible material portion to the structure,

with the securing means selected from the group consisting of:

a) stitching for sewing the flexible material to a portion of the structure;

b) a first hook system;

c) a first hook-and-pile fastener system;

d) a dome system;

- e) a first buttoned system;
- f) a screw;
- g) a pin;
- h) adhesive; and
- i) welding;

biasing means positioned along an extendable length of the flexible material portion and disposed within the sheath, with the biasing means accessible in the sheath, with the biasing means retracting the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state, and with the biasing means being affixed to said flexible portion by means selected from the group consisting of:

- a) bonding adhesive;
- b) welding; and
- c) a sheath housing forming a sheath; and

including:

~~a second zipper for removably attaching the biasing means to the first zipper on the sheath housing; and~~

wherein said biasing means includes a spring having a predetermined length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion; and affixing means for affixing the flexible material portion in the extended state to the structure, wherein the affixing means is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a second hook-and-pile fastener system;
- b) a second hook system;
- c) a second button system;

- d) a material tying fastener;
- e) a clip;
- f) a magnet; and
- g) a zipper.

35. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 34, wherein the sheath housing is sewn onto the flexible material portion.

36. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 34, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a constant force spring.

37. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 34, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a variable force spring.

38. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 37, wherein a retraction force of the variable force spring can be selected from a range of about 0.25 kg to about at least 50 kg as determined by one or more of at least the weight of the flexible material portion, the dimensions of the flexible material portion, and the structure to be covered.

39. (Currently Amended) In combination a structure and a A retractable cover ~~for covering a~~ said structure, with the wherein at least one of said structure including and said cover includes securing means selected from the group consisting of: stitching for sewing the flexible material to a portion of the structure, a first hook system, a first hook-and-pile fastener system, a dome system, a first buttoned system, a screw, a pin, adhesive, and welding, the retractable cover comprising:

a flexible material portion secured to the structure ~~by the securing means on the structure, the flexible material portion~~ including:

a sheath housing forming a sheath; and

~~a first zipper disposed on the sheath housing;~~

biasing means positioned along an extendable length of the flexible material portion and disposed within the sheath, with the biasing means accessible in the sheath, with the biasing means retracting the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state, and with the biasing means including:

~~a second zipper for removably attaching the biasing means to the first zipper on the sheath housing; and~~

a spring having a predetermined length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion; and

affixing means for affixing the flexible material portion in the extended state to the structure, wherein the affixing means is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a second hook-and-pile fastener system;
- b) a second hook system;
- c) a second button system;
- d) a material tying fastener;
- e) a clip;
- f) a magnet; and
- g) a zipper.

40. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 39, wherein the sheath housing is sewn onto the flexible material portion.

41. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 39, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a constant force spring.

42. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 39, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a variable force spring.

43. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 42, wherein a retraction force of the variable force spring can be selected from a range of about 0.25 kg to about at least 50 kg as determined by one or more of at least the weight of the flexible material portion, the dimensions of the flexible material portion, and the structure to be covered.

44. (Currently Amended) A retractable cover for covering a structure ~~having first securing means~~, the retractable cover comprising:

a flexible material portion including:

a sheath housing forming a sheath; ~~and~~

~~a first zipper disposed on the sheath housing;~~

~~second~~ securing means for securing the flexible material portion to the ~~first~~ securing means of the structure, with ~~both of the first and second~~ securing means being complementary and selected from the group consisting of:

a) stitching for sewing the flexible material to a portion of the structure;

b) a first hook system;

c) a first hook-and-pile fastener system;

d) a dome system;

e) a first buttoned system;

f) a screw;

- g) a pin;
- h) adhesive; and
- i) welding;

biasing means positioned along an extendable length of the flexible material portion and disposed within the sheath, with the biasing means accessible in the sheath, with the biasing means retracting the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state, and with the biasing means including:

~~a second zipper for removably attaching the biasing means to the first zipper on the sheath housing; and~~

a spring having a predetermined length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion; and

affixing means for affixing the flexible material portion in the extended state to the structure, wherein the affixing means is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a second hook-and-pile fastener system;
- b) a second hook system;
- c) a second button system;
- d) a material tying fastener;
- e) a clip;
- f) a magnet; and
- g) a zipper.

45. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 44, wherein the sheath housing is sewn onto the flexible material portion.



46. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 44, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a constant force spring.

47. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 44, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a variable force spring.

48. (Previously Presented) The retractable cover of claim 47, wherein a retraction force of the variable force spring can be selected from a range of about 0.25 kg to about at least 50 kg as determined by one or more of at least the weight of the flexible material portion, the dimensions of the flexible material portion, and the structure to be covered.

49. (Currently Amended) A method for covering a structure, the method comprising the steps of:

securing a flexible material portion to a structure using securing means;

extending the flexible material portion from a rolled-up state to an extended state to cover the structure;

affixing the flexible material portion in the extended state using affixing means;

biasing the flexible material portion using biasing means; and

retracting the flexible material portion from the extended state to the rolled-up state using the biasing means;

wherein the flexible material portion includes:

a sheath housing forming a sheath; and

~~a first zipper disposed on the sheath housing;~~

wherein the securing means is selected from the group consisting of:

a) stitching for sewing the flexible material portion to the structure;

- b) a first hook system;
- c) a first hook-and-pile fastener system;
- d) a dome system;
- e) a first buttoned system;
- f) a screw;
- g) a pin;
- h) adhesive; and
- i) welding;

wherein the biasing means is positioned along an extendable length of the flexible material portion and disposed within the sheath, with the biasing means accessible in the sheath, with the biasing means retracting the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state, and with the biasing means including:

~~a second zipper for removably attaching the biasing means to the first zipper on the sheath housing; and~~

a spring having a predetermined length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion; and

wherein the affixing means is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a second hook-and-pile fastener system;
- b) a second hook system;
- c) a second button system;
- d) a material tying fastener;
- e) a clip;
- f) a magnet; and

g) a zipper.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the sheath housing is sewn onto the flexible material portion.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a constant force spring.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the zipper of the biasing means is a variable force spring.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein a retraction force of the variable force spring can be selected from a range of about 0.25 kg to about at least 50 kg as determined by one or more of at least the weight of the flexible material portion, the dimensions of the flexible material portion, and the structure to be covered.